

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

NOVEMBER 18, 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. TYDINGS, from the Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 93]

The Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 93) declaring the policy of the Congress with respect to the independence of the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

This joint resolution deals with the subject of Filipino independence and the future security of the United States and the coming Philippine Republic. The whole subject of the Philippine matter, both present and future, has been considered by President Roosevelt; President Manuel Quezon, of the Philippine Commonwealth, now living in Washington; various departments of our Government interested in the Philippines; and by members and committees of Congress.

Following the enactment of the Tydings-McDuffie law on March 24, 1934, the Filipinos adopted a constitution and energetically proceeded to carry out the course of action laid out in the act which would in 1946 make them a free and independent people. In the meantime the Filipino people, their governmental institutions, and their commercial program reached a very high point. Under American sovereignty Filipinos were enjoying the highest standard of living of any peoples in the Far East. Relations between Filipinos and the Americans and between the Philippine government and the Government of the United States were friendly and as cooperative as have existed anywhere in the world.

Thus, when our promise of complete independence was on the threshold of fulfillment, when the last steps toward independence were being taken by the Filipino people, and when they were preparing for the election which would usher in the first president and Congress of

a completely free and independent Philippine Islands, the Japanese struck, on December 7, 1941, and temporarily halted this whole machinery of progress for complete independence for the Philippines. We are now busily engaged in the southwest Pacific in driving the Japs back farther and farther and eventually will drive the Japs completely out of the Philippine Islands, restore law and order and democratic processes, and give the Filipino people the independence which they have long struggled to achieve and which we have definitely promised shall be theirs.

In view of the great strides the Philippine Commonwealth has recently made and the valiant resistance of the Filipinos to Japanese invasion, plus their continuing loyalty to the United States, it is now proposed to advance the date for ultimate Philippine independence—that is, to give them their independence before July 4, 1946, as the Tydings-McDuffie law now provides.

To that end the joint resolution declares it to be the policy of the Congress to drive the Japanese from the islands, restore as quickly as possible the orderly and free democratic processes of government to the Filipino people, and thereupon establish the complete independence of the Philippine Islands as a separate and self-governing nation.

First, the President of the United States is authorized, after negotiation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines or the President of the Filipino Republic, to withhold or to acquire and retain such bases, necessary appurtenances to such bases, and the rights incident thereto, in addition to any provided by the Tydings-McDuffie law, as he may deem necessary for the full and mutual protection of the Philippine Islands and the United States. Second, in order speedily to effectuate the policy of hastening the time of independence for the Filipinos the President of the United States is authorized, after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, to advance the date of the independence of the Philippine Islands by proclaiming their independence as a separate and self-governing nation prior to July 4, 1946. Third, the resources of the United States both of men and materials are pledged for continued use to redeem the Philippines from the invader and to speed the day of ultimate and complete independence for the people of the Philippine Islands.

It is believed that prompt enactment of this joint resolution will be to the mutual advantage not only of the Philippine Islands but of the United States as well.

